

The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY

PART I—Section 1

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 13] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1961 PHALGUNA, 17, 1880

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RESOLUTION

New Delhi, the 8th March 1961

No. 3/3/61-Pub. II.—The passing away of Shri Govind Ballabh Pant on the 7th March, 1961, has deprived our country of one of her greatest and wisest statesmen and most patriotic sons. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the people of our land and his last hours were spent in unremitting labours for the cause of the country's unity and well-being.

2. Born on September 10, 1887, in a remote village nestling in the Himalayas, his early career at school and college held every brilliant promise of the outstanding statesman and leader of the people he was to be. He joined the Bar in Nainital in 1909 but, later, gave up his flourishing practice to devote himself to the cause of the country's freedom. He joined the Indian National Congress and was elected a member of the All India Congress Committee. He led the Swaraj Party in the U.P. Council with great distinction during a period of seven years.

3. Shri Govind Ballabh Pant took a leading part in organising demonstrations in Lucknow against the Simon Commission in 1928. In a lathi charge made by the police, he sustained serious injuries which left lasting effects on his physical frame. He spent two long spells in prison by participating in the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-32 and the 'Quit India' Movement in 1942.

4. Shri Govind Ballabh Pant became a member of the Congress Working Committee in 1931 and continued in the highest counsels of the party and the nation throughout his life. He was elected Deputy Leader of the Congress Party in

the Central Legislative Assembly in 1934 and his skill as a great parliamentarian and the ability he displayed in the masterly analysis of different problems will ever be remembered.

5. Shri Govind Ballabh Pant became the Premier in 1937 of the first popularly elected Ministry in U.P. His regime of over two years was marked by important measures of social and economic reform which he carried through in the face of the limitations inherent in the scheme of provincial autonomy under the Government of India Act, 1935. He again formed a Ministry in the U.P. in 1946 and after Independence became the first Chief Minister of U.P. and presided over the affairs of the State during a crucial period of eight years. The far-reaching measures of land reform and administrative re-organisation and the pioneering efforts for revitalising food production and rural development through the Etawah pilot project in community development which marked this period, are a tribute to his great vision and personal initiative.

6. As a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, Shri Pant played a very important role in the framing of the Constitution. He joined the Union Cabinet as Home Minister in January, 1955, and served in this capacity till the end. During this period, he was also Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha. His great qualities reached new heights and as Home Minister he brought to bear on the many intractable problems which faced the country his qualities of gentleness of approach, wise counsel and abiding patience. He played a prominent part in the re-organisation of States and the redrawing of the map of the country, and it was his constant endeavour to promote the well-being of all the States in the Union. His great feeling for the cause of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and his dedicated endeavour to improve their lot will ever be remembered with gratitude. As Home Minister, he also devoted himself to the improvement of administrative efficiency and integrity.

7. Shri Govind Ballabh Pant was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest honour, in 1957 for his distinguished services to the nation.

8. One of India's most illustrious sons, a great servant of the people and one of the foremost fighters in India's freedom struggle, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant even in failing health, worked without rest or respite in the service of the nation. Shri Pant's undaunted spirit, his great patriotism and his constant devotion to the country's good will remain an undying and inspiring memory with our people.

B. N. JHA, Secy.